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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

JULY 1983

PLEASE RETURN

VOL. IV, NO. 7

TELEPHONES CHANGE

When calling state offices may notice changes these days. All state offices in Helena have a new prefix (444) in place of the former one (401). Most offices, including legislative offices, have the same four end number. Thus, you may reach offices with the following numbers:

Consumer Counsel	444-2771
Environmental Quality Council	444-3742
Legislative Auditor	444-3122
Legislative Council	444-3064
Legislative Fiscal Analyst	444-2986

For the Departments of Highways, Natural Resources and Conservation and Military Affairs are all new. For the next few months, you may still use the old number for any state agency if you don't know the new number. If you get the old number an intercept operator will answer your call, ask who you are calling, and connect you. With a new number you will go straight through.

As we are all used to the new system, it will offer many advantages, including economy and expanded features. Bear with us.

SESSION JOURNALS

HOUSE JOURNALS
LEGISLATION

The seven-volume set of 1983 Senate and House Journals has arrived. Legislators' sets have been labeled and are being held in Room 139 of the Capitol where legislators may pick them up at any time. Another notice will be sent to you during the special session.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

DECEMBER 9 AND
10 MEETING SET

The Subcommittee on Agricultural Land Taxation is preparing for a December 9 and 10 meeting. On Friday, December 9, the Subcommittee will attend a seminar on property tax classification being conducted by the Revenue Oversight Committee with the assistance of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. On Saturday, December 10, the Subcommittee will hold a regular meeting in

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

DEC 9, 1983

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Room 104 of the Capitol, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Items to be discussed include staff reports on agricultural land taxation, the activities of the classification seminar, and the tentative recommendation made by the Advisory Council on Agricultural Lands Valuation. The Subcommittee will also hear Dr. Layton Thompson discuss the development of the agricultural land valuation schedules adopted in 1963 and currently in use.

SUBCOMMITTEE #4

PROPOSAL
DEVELOPED AND
MAILED

Joint Interim Subcommittee #4 met November 18 and 19 and, after extensive public hearings, developed a draft proposal to amend the veterans' and handicapped persons' employment preference law. On November 29, a draft copy of the proposed bill and a statement of intent were mailed to legislators and interested persons to encourage critical review of the proposal.

COMMENTS
SOLICITED FOR
DECEMBER 9

The Subcommittee will meet on December 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the former Supreme Court Chambers in the Capitol to review the proposal and accept public comments. Depending on the length of public testimony and Committee debate, the Subcommittee will adopt a final recommendation to the special session of the Montana Legislature either at the Friday, December 9 meeting, or continue deliberations on Saturday morning, December 10, at 9:00 a.m.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

PROPERTY TAX
SEMINAR ON
DECEMBER 9 AND 10

The Revenue Oversight Committee will hold a property tax seminar on December 9 and 10, 1983. The seminar will be conducted as part of the Committee's study of Montana's property tax classification system mandated by HJR 31. The seminar will be held in the Big Sky Room at Jorgenson's Holiday Motel located at 1714 11th Avenue in Helena.

The seminar will focus on the history of property taxation, the general theory, definitions, and fundamentals of appraisal, and different approaches in finding property values.

Interested persons are invited to attend. Please notify Jim Oppedahl at the Legislative Council in advance to assure adequate seating is arranged.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

DNRC AND STATE
LIBRARY COAL TAX
USE REVIEWED

Reports on use of coal severance tax funds by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and by the State Library were heard November 18 by the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee. Scheduled for the Subcommittee's next meeting on Thursday, January 19, is a review of the coal severance tax. Mining companies, utilities, and coal purchasers and transporters will appear during the morning session. In the afternoon, the Subcommittee will hear a presentation by the Governor's staff in support of the coal severance tax as it currently exists, followed by presentations by other interested persons. On Friday, January 20, the Subcommittee will continue its meeting to hear reports from state agencies that expend coal severance tax funds.

JANUARY 19 SET
FOR REVIEW OF
COAL TAX LEVEL

FURTHER REVIEW
OF CURRENT USE
JANUARY 20

CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING

MEETING SET FOR
DECEMBER 12

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee will meet December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 139 of the Capitol to discuss problems and options surrounding the high bids on Capitol renovation.

State Architect Phil Hauck reported to the Committee that the 1981 legislative session authorized \$6,750,000 for the renovation work which included construction, planning contingencies, and all associated project costs. The construction bids we received by themselves were significantly higher than the allocated funds and they do not include items such as planning costs, contingencies and art restoration. When these are taken into consideration, the situation is as follows:

	<u>Base Bids Only</u>	<u>Base Bids + All Additive Alt.</u>
Total Project Cost	\$9,500,000	\$9,950,000
Appropriation	<u>6,750,000</u>	<u>6,750,000</u>
Deficit	(\$2,750,000)	(\$3,200,000)

Mr. Hauck said there are three apparent solutions to the problem: 1) Scrap the project, 2) scale back and redesign the project, and 3) secure additional funding for the project as bid. All the options have very definite pros and cons which deserve considerable thought.

Under the terms of the specifications in the bid documents, all bids can be held until December 16. If

a satisfactory decision can be made, there is thus still time to make use of the bids.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 16
MEET SET

The Environmental Quality Council will meet Friday, December 16, as originally planned. Because of uncertainty over the length of the special session, the time and location of the meeting have not been established. Please contact the EQC for those details. At that meeting the EQC will review the events surrounding the proposed issuance of the modified permit for Champion International's Frenchtown Mill's increased discharge of effluent into the Clark Fork River. In addition, the EQC will review the responsibilities of the Department of State Lands as part of its oversight of state agencies' environmental programs. The EQC will also receive a status report on the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences subdivision review program.

SUBCOMMITTEE:
DECEMBER 15

The EQC Subcommittee on Toxic Substances will meet Thursday evening, December 15, at 7:00, subject to the special session schedule. The Subcommittee will receive an overview of the state's noxious weed control program, including a status report on research on biological control of weeds. The Subcommittee will also review the state hazardous waste management program.

Other EQC subcommittees will meet during the special session as time permits.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WATER MARKETING

DECEMBER 2, 3
MEETING

The Select Committee on Water Marketing will meet Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, to consider issues of water availability and management. The Committee will receive briefings from Joe Marcotte, Regional Director of the BLM on the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program; from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on operation of Missouri River Mainstem Reservoirs; from Carroll Hamon, Executive Director of the Missouri River Basin States Association on coordination of state programs and the MBSA Water Accounting System; and from Gary Fritz, DNRC, on water availability and management in Montana. The Committee will also review public comment and proposed revisions of the study plan.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday in Room 104 and may continue into the evening. The Committee will reconvene Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

*all meetings are subject to change

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR
DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 EQC - Select Comm. on Water Marketing - Rm. 104 9am	3 EQC - Select Comm. on Water Marketing - Rm. 104 9am
4	5	6	7	8	9 Emp. Pref. Subcomm. - Old Supreme Court Ch. - 9am Rev. Oversight Comm. Property Tax Seminar 9am Agr. Land Tax Subc. Rm. 104 - 8am	10 Emp. Pref. Subcomm. - Old Supreme Court Ch. - 9am Rev. Oversight Comm. Property Tax Seminar 9am Agr. Land Tax Subc. Rm. 104 - 8am
11	12 SPECIAL SESSION Capt. Bldg. & Planning Rm. 139-7pm	13	14	15 -----EQC----- Rm. TBA	16 -----EQC----- Rm. TBA	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 HOLIDAY	27	28	29	30	31

*all meetings are subject to change

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR
JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 HOLIDAY	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Subcomm. #3	13 - Rm. 104	14
15	16	17	18	19 Coal Tax Oversight Subcomm. Old Sup. Crt. Chamb.	20 Rm. 104	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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